

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Western District of New York*

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PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 2004

RE: **UNITED STATES v. CHRISTOPHER CHARLES CHEVERIE**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Christopher Charles Cheverie, age 23, of 218 Grand Street, Lockport, New York, was sentenced by the Hon. Richard J. Arcara, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of New York, as a result of his February 10, 2004 plea of guilty to Count Three of the above captioned indictment charging him unlawfully and knowingly selling or otherwise disposing of a firearm to a person and having reasonable cause to believe that such person was prohibited from purchasing, receiving or possessing a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(d)(8). Judge Arcara sentenced Cheverie to a period of 15 months incarceration to be followed by a period of three (3) years of supervised release. The defendant was also assessed a \$100 special assessment.

Assistant United States Attorney Richard P. Maigret stated that by his plea of guilty, the defendant admitted to purchasing a firearm on behalf of one Jason S. Kanalley. The

firearm in question was a Romarm/Cugir, 7.62 times 39mm caliber, semi-automatic rifle, imported by Century Arms, Inc., bearing Serial Number S1-35657-2001.

Assistant United States Attorney Maigret stated that the firearm was purchased by Cheverie on November 10, 2001, from the Cabin Range, a federally licensed firearms dealer, located at 3585 Lockport-Olcott Road, Lockport, New York. AUSA Maigret stressed that the owners of the Cabin Range had done nothing illegal or improper in the sale and transfer of the firearm to Mr. Cheverie and were unaware that Cheverie was in fact purchasing the firearm for Kanalley. In fact, the owners of the Cabin Range have cooperated fully and completely with the government in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Maigret stated that by the terms of his plea agreement, Mr. Cheverie admitted he was aware at the time of his purchase and receipt of the firearm on behalf of Kanalley, that Kanalley was prohibited by federal law from receiving, purchasing and possessing firearms. Mr. Kanalley's prohibition stems from the fact that at that time Mr. Kanalley was the subject of several court orders of protection that restrained him from, among other things, the use or attempted use of physical force against an intimate partner or a child. Mr. Cheverie admitted that he had purchased the firearm on behalf of Mr. Kanalley in return for an unknown amount of money.

On the evening of February 8, 2003 through the early morning hours of February 9, 2003, Jason S. Kanalley was involved in a series of shootings, first in the City of Lockport, New York and then later in the Town of Lockport, New York. Mr. Kanalley initially

shot at an individual outside of a bar in the City of Lockport, New York and then fired several rounds into that establishment. Later on, in the early morning hours of February 9, 2003, when Lockport Police Officers and Niagara County Deputy Sheriffs located Mr. Kanalley in a trailer park in the Town of Lockport, New York, Mr. Kanalley began firing upon the police officers with the same firearm used in the previous shooting. Mr. Kanalley seriously wounded two Lockport Police Officers, Captain Lawrence Eggert and Police Officer Steven Ritchie, during this fire fight, before he was wounded. Mr. Kanalley subsequently committed suicide by shooting himself with his firearm before he could be arrested by Lockport Police Officers and Niagara County Deputy Sheriffs. The firearm used by Mr. Kanalley in these shootings is the same semi-automatic rifle that was illegally purchased and delivered to him by the defendant, Christopher Charles Cheverie.

The investigation involving the alleged illegal purchase and sale or disposition of this firearm by Mr. Cheverie to Mr. Kanalley, was conducted by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives from the Buffalo Field Office and by members of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. Prosecution of this case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Richard P. Maigret.

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